



MONTGOMERY BELL ACADEMY 4001 HARDING ROAD, NASHVILLE, TN 37205  
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## *The Red Badge of Courage is a Hit!*

By Sam Funk

This year, Montgomery Bell Academy's Junior School performed a spectacular rendition of the classic play *The Red Badge of Courage*. The play stars a young boy named Henry Fleming, who decides to pledge his life for his country in the American Civil War. Against his mother's advice, Henry enlists in the Union army, and he is sent to become part of a small regiment in New York. Many weeks are spent by the regiment lying around and doing absolutely nothing, until suddenly the troops are called into battle. While at the battle, the rebels keep progressing their troops closer and closer to the



*Ben Wood, John Thornton,  
and Matthew Kaplan*

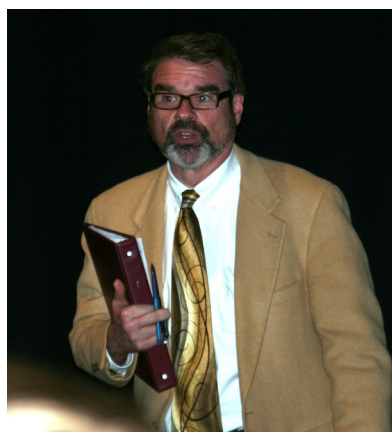
Union bases. Henry, realizing the slim chance of winning the battle, decides to run away. A few hours pass, and Henry

returns to the battlefield. There, he finds that the regiment actually did hold off the Confederates! After the battle, Henry faces a major internal conflict about whether he should put his own life over his own country. After a few weeks have gone by, the New York regiment engages in battle yet again. The young man witnesses the flag holder being killed, and Henry picks up the flag and leads an advancement on the Rebel army. After Henry's gallant charge, he is recognized by his comrades as a hero! Henry Fleming faces his fears, once and for all.

During *The Red Badge of Courage*, the singing and the acting were quite impressive. The singing soldiers were always in key, and the audience left the theater repeating the extremely catchy words of the soldiers' delightful songs. In addition, the costumes were superb, and the set construction was perfect. If one were asked to review the wonderful production, he would surely rate it a magnificent 10 out of 10!

*The Red Badge of Courage* not only celebrated the dedication of the

actors, but also Dr. Seay's last time as the Junior School play director with the Montgomery Bell community. Dr.



*Thank you, Dr. Seay!*

Seay developed the idea of starting a play for the Junior School, and he has always been the director. He has done a wonderful job directing each play, and he has really produced a fun environment where boys can pursue their passion for theater. The whole school is thankful for Dr. Seay and his contributions, and Montgomery Bell

Academy wishes him the best, wherever life may take him.

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# The Red Badge of Courage: Behind the Scenes

## The Tech Crew Experience

By John Preston

Let me start off with the words of Dr. Seay, "Great job, guys!" "Remember, move stage up not stage right," and "Cue marching!" These are some of the many phrases you hear as a member of the Junior School play Tech Crew. Once you walk into the theater, the Tech Crew is immersed in an astounding play that has many moving parts. For example, some jobs such as moving set pieces and lights are used to focus on certain scenes. Other jobs, such as stage director, require you to help the movement of the play in the right direction. If an actor forgets his lines, the stage director lets the actor know the line so the play will move smoothly. Moving set pieces and specific set placement are also



*Dr. Seay addresses the cast and crew at the dress rehearsal.*

actions that help the play move smoothly. Because the Tech Crew is such a major part of the play, it is necessary for them to come on Saturdays and work two hour shifts. In those shifts, the Tech Crew paints set pieces, organizes nails and screws in piles, and cleans up and takes out the trash in the theater. When not working on Saturdays, an average day could be sitting and watching *The Red Badge of Courage*, the riveting story of young men fighting in the Civil War, or waiting for your turn to move a set piece. As you wait, you can talk to others or work on homework. Once it is your turn,

you gently move your said set piece and then take it offstage at the appropriate time. This process of watching, waiting, moving, and watching continues the whole week. With all of the weeks of hard practice, the play is showing great promise for the final showing. Although we have not practiced in full uniform yet, our movements are on point, and the actors are doing what needs to be done. With all that said, the play will be a great one, and the Tech Crew hopes everyone will enjoy it.



*Adric Kimbrough*





# Images from *The Red Badge of Courage*



*Left to Right - Harrison Steanson, Gray Williams, Tim Blaufuss, Thomas Jouan, and Danny Lee*



*Ben West and  
Ms. Catharine Hollifield*



*William Bradford*



*The Cast and Crew of The Red Badge of Courage*



# Images from *The Red Badge of Courage*



*Andrew Sutphin and Alex Massad*



*Camden Slinger and Will Mader*

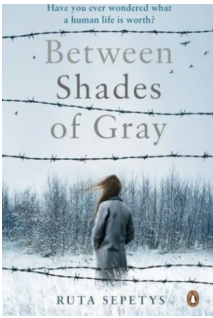


*John Thornton and Ben West*

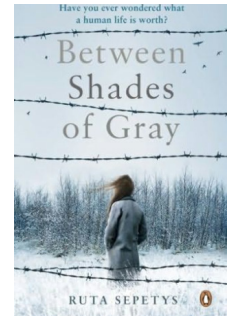


*Matthew Kaplan*





# All-School Read Author, Ruta Sepetys, Returns to MBA

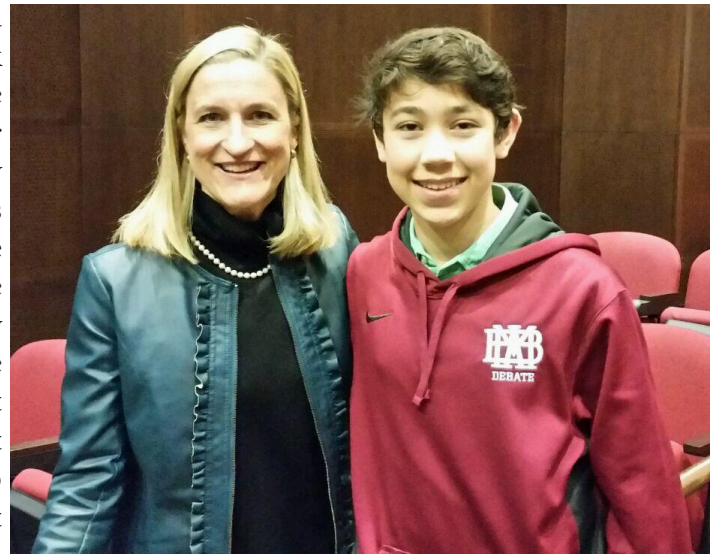


By Arthur Laffer

Ruta Sepetys spoke at MBA on Wednesday, January 7 at 5:30pm in the Dead Poet's Society Room about her novel, *Between Shades of Gray*, which was this year's All-School Read and has recently been chosen as the Nashville All-City Read. The novel recounts the horrors of the Lithuanian deportees under Stalin in 1941. Because of the worldwide popularity of her novel, on June 6, 2013, Mrs. Sepetys was awarded The Cross of the Knight of the Order award by the Lithuanian government because she has brought global to attention the nightmare the Lithuanians had to live through.

In addition to her writing career, Mrs. Sepetys spoke about her job at a recording studio in

Hollywood and how she would ask her bands all the time "What is your story?" One day one of her bands asked her the same question. She thought she knew the answer, but she really didn't. That question is what inspired her to learn more about her Lithuanian heritage and the struggles that her family and other Lithuanians had to face. Because of her journey to Lithuania in order to answer that question, she got an idea for writing a book about it.



Ruta Sepetys with Arthur Laffer

speech together. Tim gave a Lego sculpture to Mrs. Sepetys that he made depicting the scene of the train carts and the blood and violence that was occurring around it. Mrs. Sepetys greatly appreciated this gift and thought it was amazing how well Tim was able to interpret this scene and create a Lego sculpture that showed the pain and darkness that surrounded Lina in the book.

Mrs. Sepetys' novel, *Between Shades of Gray*, is being made into a movie, and her second novel, *Out of the Easy*, has been purchased by HBO for a series. The author is currently working on her third novel.

My opinion about the significance of the book is that Lina has something special to hold onto that the Russian officers try to take away, but Lina is strong and is able to hold onto that something special and survive.

Tim Blaufuss and I went to Mrs. Sepetys'



Ruta Sepetys with Tim Blaufuss





# Rich's Cotton Candy Twirl or Hurl?

By William Bradford

One day as I waited in line for the ice cream freezer, something caught my eye. There, in all its glory, lay a frozen delicacy that stood out above all others. It was bright pink, and immediately I decided it had to be mine. It was a popsicle, known as the "Rich's Cotton Candy Twirl." In my opinion, this popsicle is not one of the better frozen treats, because of its lack of flavor and artificial nature. But does this popsicle live up to its name? I aimed to find out, setting up a survey for all of the 7th and 8th graders at MBA. After a week of responses, 57 total, I learned many things about the public thoughts on this product. My survey found that 49% of boys eat dessert some days, with 14% eating dessert every day. When eating dessert, 52% of boys choose ice cream on a daily basis, with 17% eating the baked option for that day. Now, on to the statistics of the popsicle: only 33% of boys have eaten one of the popsicles in question. Of these boys, only 7% actually enjoy it, fewer than



*William Bradford samples the Twirl.* one out every ten people. Most other boys either hated it or had never tried one. Out of the boys who had eaten it, 21% said it reminded them of cotton candy, while about 13% said it didn't, and 14% said it didn't taste like much of anything.

Overall, the general opinion seems to be very negative. To further my expertise on the popsicle, I tried one during the school week. I based my opinion on the following: appearance,

taste, and the basis of whether or not it reminds me of cotton candy. Upon opening the packaging, I was greeted by a brightly colored chunk of popsicle which was very malformed. Half was pink, and the other half was bright blue. Upon biting into it, I found it to be very soft and of a bad consistency, explaining as to why it was so malformed. Most of these popsicles are probably misshapen because they are soft and easy to mold. The popsicle just tasted like sugar, without a real cotton candy flavor. It definitely did not remind me of cotton candy. While I appreciate the effort to get a new popsicle for the school, I think this product was a miss. Overall, I give this popsicle a sad 4.5 out of 10, because of its bad flavor, horribly cheap make, and general opinion of the MBA boys.



## Seventh-Grade Treated to a Private Viewing of *The Hobbit: Battle of the Five Armies*







# Reflections on the Vanderbilt Rape Case

By Sam Funk

On what seemed to be a regular night in the middle of June 2013, a decision was made by four young men that would change their lives forever. After a night of heavy drinking, Brandon Vandenburg carried an unconscious female student back to his dorm, where he was met by fellow football friends, Jaborian "Tip" McKenzie, Brandon Banks, and Cory Batey. The friends sexually assaulted this unconscious young woman. They took inappropriate pictures of the girl and raped her. In addition, after the rape, the young men continued degrading acts of violation against the victim. Brandon Vandenburg filmed the assault. After the whole

incident, many students claimed to have noticed the events leading up to the rape, but did nothing to prevent the events from happening.

A little more than a year later, Brandon Vandenburg and Cory Batey went before the Nashville Court System. Vandenburg was accused of four counts of aggravated rape, one count of attempted aggravated, two counts of aggravated sexual battery, and a count for both tampering with evidence and unlawful photography. Batey was accused of four counts of aggravated rape, one count of attempted aggravated rape, and two counts of aggravated sexual battery. During the trial, Cory Batey's lawyer tried to blame the alleged rape on various different factors. For example, the lawyer claimed that the culture allowed sexual promiscuity and excess alcohol. The jury, rejecting these excuses, convicted both Vandenburg and Batey on all counts. Both have received a fifteen year minimum sentence, but they are very likely to spend much more time in jail.

"This case gives our entire community an opportunity to talk to each other and to our children, especially to our boys, about the way we treat women, both with our actions and with our words. No one deserves to be violated. Further, if you see someone who is being sexually assaulted, the right thing to do is to report it and try and get the person some help," comments Nashville District Attorney General Glenn Funk. Rape is a huge problem in the Nashville community. In fact, nearly one out of every five women claims that she has been raped. Nashville's protection agency has vowed to do whatever it takes to cut down the rape rate. When asked about the rape statistics, Glenn Funk replied, "My primary job is to keep this community safe. My goal is for the administration of justice to lead to a healthier and safer community." Many things are being done to stop these unjust events, and Nashville can definitely look forward to a better tomorrow.



# Everything Ebola: No News?!

By Danny Lee

Although Ebola is still ravaging countries such as Liberia, Guinea, and Sierra Leone, we seem to have forgotten, or even stopped caring about the deadly virus known as Ebola. According to Google Trends, interest about the virus was low until the day after a second nurse in Dallas tested positive for the virus. ( Image 1 courtesy of Google Trends )

A major reason that Ebola is no longer in the news is that according to the AP, "The Associated Press and other press outlets have agreed not to report on suspected cases of Ebola in the United States until a positive viral RNA test is completed." Basically, this statement means that the bigger sources of media have agreed not to report any UNCONFIRMED Ebola cases. I personally believe that this approach is risky, because when Mr. Duncan returned from Liberia, it took them three weeks to allow him to take a test, and a week after that for him to die. Even after that point, the hospital tried to delay the news of his death to delay the inevitable panic that would spread throughout the city, according to a *NY Times* article.

This choice could be an effort by the AP to reduce the amount of unnecessary fear and angst the unconfirmed Ebola cases would cause, but I also think it a

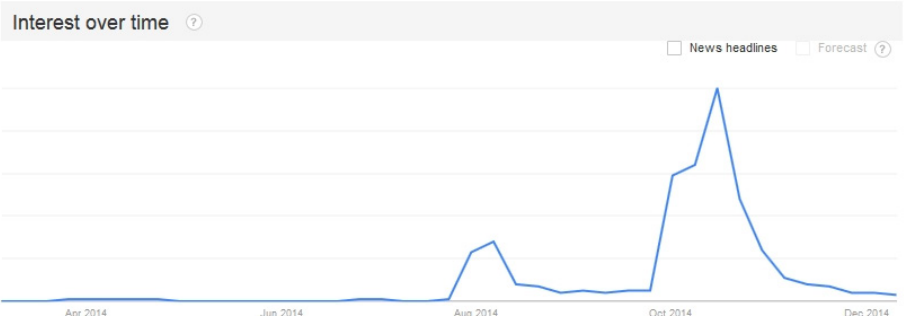


violation of the 1st Amendment, which gives us the freedom of the press. Because the AP decided not to report on any unconfirmed Ebola cases, newspapers and magazines that are a part of the AP are going to have a hard time publishing an article about an Ebola outbreak. Many people such as those on the famous website *Infowars.com* think that the agreement with the AP and the government shows how the "mainstream press" are more interested in staying on the government's good side, instead of keeping the American people informed.

There is another possibility for the cover-ups of Ebola outbreaks in the US. According to an "Alex Jones Show" interview, Dr. James Lawrenzi revealed that health authorities are hiding potential Ebola cases in the United States and covering up patients in an effort to avoid hysteria. Also, with the

outbreaks of the flu common in the winter time, experts have warned that the reporting of Ebola-like symptoms, which are in fact related to influenza symptoms, could overwhelm hospitals, so doctors are rejecting a lot of patients, according to a *Forbes* article. Although this plan would reduce hysteria drastically, what if one of those patients with the "flu" could actually have Ebola and infect their communities, which will in turn infect the state, which could turn the small "incidents" into a full-blown epidemic.

In response to a single nurse who tested positive in Dallas, the government sent 250,000 Hazmat suits, and the CDC are also set to purchase over 1.4 million surgical gowns and nearly 10,000 body bags in response to the outbreak. Were these actions all because of that one nurse in Dallas? Or is this a very intricate cover up?





# Disneyfication

## The “D” Word

By Matthew Miller

Disneyfication (n): the transformation (as of something real or unsettling) into carefully controlled and safe entertainment or an environment with similar qualities (Merriam Webster Online-Dictionary).

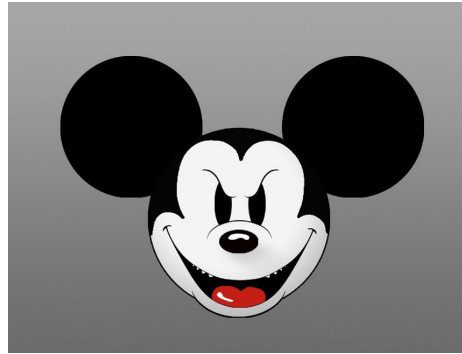
Have you heard of the D word? DISNEYfication. The definition means to create or alter in a simplified, romanticized, and contrived form or manner. This word has taken on added intensity as Disney takes it to a new level. The cute little mouse you grew up with from your first snuggly Mickey and Minnie baby blanket is a hungry giant. Mickey Mouse has a huge appetite in shaping the pop culture with its conglomerate holdings in media, entertainment, publishing, retail and communication industries.

Over the last ten years Disney has been buying up the franchises Americans love. *The Muppets*, *Star Wars*, Pixar, Marvel, and *Indiana Jones* have been added to their other media properties including ESPN, ABC, ABC Family, Disney XD, and the Disney Channel.

Critics are wary that disneyfication will not only strip the accuracy and meaning of the original works but will also diminish creativity when Disney acquires the intellectual rights and production rights of the individual companies. As we have seen in the past, Disney has consistently

turned out popular animated films that were historically incorrect or altered from the original stories. In *Pocahontas*, the Native American princess never romanced with John Smith. In *The Little Mermaid*, the mermaid princess from Hans Christian Anderson's story turned into sea foam to save the prince.

These Disney films were neatly disneyfied so that they fit nicely into



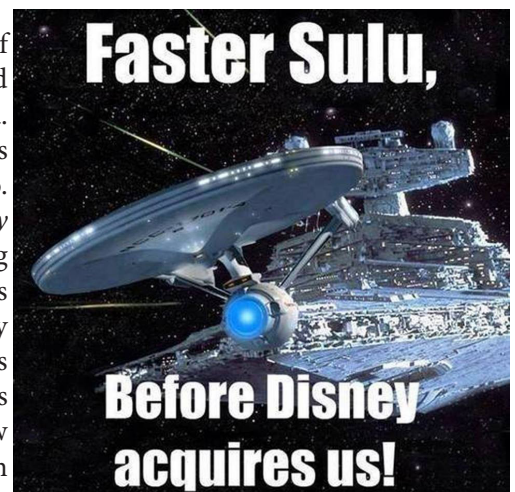
family friendly entertainment. Each movie is packaged with a myriad of merchandise that saturates the market and screams for your attention. Take the latest Disney blockbuster, *Frozen*. The Disney machine marketed everything *Frozen* imaginable under the sun. Just about every little girl in America wanted to be Princess Elsa, and when products sold out, it turned into a feeding frenzy.

Another problem of disneyfication is that creativity and originality are being compromised. Take Pixar for example. Pixar was once an independent film studio. In 1995, Pixar produced *Toy Story* which became the highest grossing film of the year. Since then Pixar was on the rise with a series of highly successful movies. Pixar's success could be attributed to its openness and its willingness to embrace new ideas. At one lunch the writers from

Pixar came up with the ideas for these four movies: *A Bug's Life*, *Monster's Inc.*, *Finding Nemo*, and *Wallie*. All of the major classic Pixar movies were made before Disney bought it. The first and only original Pixar and Disney film to date is *Brave*, which was lackluster and did not have the Pixar charm.

Since Disney bought Pixar, they have made mostly sequels. Disney threatened to split from Pixar if Pixar didn't make *Toy Story 3*. Pixar did not want to make another sequel to *Toy Story*, but they were forced to do it. Many of their upcoming movies are more sequels for Pixar Classics. These movies include *Finding Dory*, *Cars 3*, *Toy Story 4*, and *The Incredibles 2*.

The question is will Disney do to *Star Wars* what they have done to Pixar? In a recent interview by *Cinema Blend*, George Lucas, the creator of *Star Wars*, disclosed that Disney refused to use any of his ideas for the series. Disney decided to create their own ideas on how the series will continue. When the new *Star Wars* movies come out in December 2015, let's cross our fingers that Disney doesn't disneyfy *Star Wars* and make it into a twisted space-aged musical.

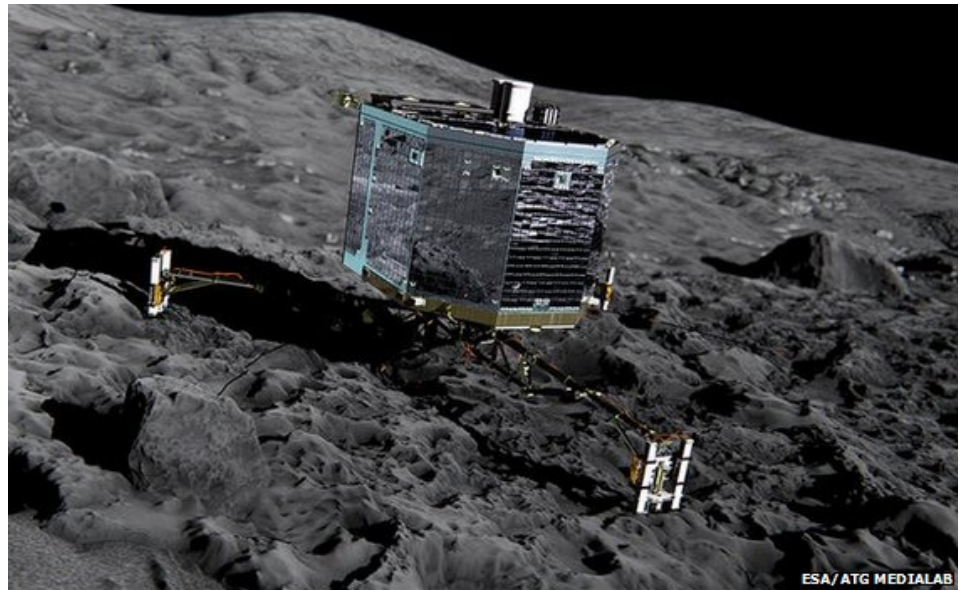




# Comet Landing Makes History!

By Jonathan Brown

On November 12, 2014 history was made when the Rosetta spacecraft landed on the comet 67P/Churyumov-Gerasimenko, which is 317 miles away from Earth. It took seven hours for the Rosetta to land on the comet. Once Rosetta landed on the comet, some weight was lifted off the shoulders of scientists at the European Space Agency after an eleven year mission that started in March 2004. The purpose of landing a satellite on a comet is to make history, study the comet's features such as the nucleus, and to



study the comet's movement under different times and circumstances in space. Rosetta will study the comet with ten different instruments for around one more year. The satellite will remain on the comet until December 15 if the comet lives that long. Rosetta is not the only satellite to study a comet because in 1986 another satellite called Giotto observed Halley's comet, but did not land on it.

The comet is massive and its

shape is unique. It has a larger circle with a smaller one attached. Rosetta landed on the smaller circle. Thanks to Rosetta, scientists can learn and understand more about comets.

Sites used: <http://rosetta.jpl.nasa.gov/mission-facts/mission-timeline>,  
<http://rosetta.jpl.nasa.gov/mission-facts/mission-goals>,  
<http://www.space.com/27740-rosetta-comet-landing-success.html>,

## Eighth Graders Serve at MLK Convocation



Front L to R - Adric Kimbrough, T.J. Terrell, Otto' Olafsson, Brenden Harris, Connor Krumm Back L to R - Ian Hall, Josiah Francis, Luke Bernatavitz, Kanayo Offodile, Chris Tarquinio, Nick German, and Josh Meriwether



# College Scholarships for Video Gaming!

By Danny Lee

All our parents have at least said, “Stop playing games. How are they going to help you in life?” once, or at least some variety of it. Well, they’re wrong! (Please don’t kill me.) Video game scholarships have existed for a couple of years now, but they have been very rare. Recently, however, a multitude of colleges have made video games, namely *League of Legends*, a varsity sport, and have even given out scholarships, just as they would give scholarships to “real” athletes. The US government also began recognizing eSport players as professional athletes by offering them athlete visas to enter the country! (Take that, Mom!)

Obviously, I’m a *LoL* (*League of Legends*) fan, and I was pretty pumped when I heard the news, but I have a feeling most of you don’t know what the *LoL* life is about. According to *LoL*’s official site, (na.leagueoflegends.com) “*League of Legends* is a fast paced, competitive online game that blends the speed and intensity of a real-time strategy game with role-playing game elements.” As a very general overview, *LoL* is a MOBA (Multiplayer Online Battle Arena) in which the “summoner” or player plays as a champion against either AI or other human summoners. The objective of the game is to take down “towers” and “objectives,”



2014 League of Legends North American Collegiate Championship

such as dragon and baron, and to take the enemy “nexus,” which will end the game. Sounds pretty simple, doesn’t it? Not really. You have to learn the three standard maps and know about many aspects of the game, such as “jungling,” “kiting,” and “juking.”

An incentive for colleges to start supporting varsity gaming is that Riot Games, the creators of *League*, holds a championship called the “*League of Legends* North American Collegiate Championship,” NACC for short, in which many college teams duke it out to get some prize money. According to *GameSpot*, 540 teams, from more than 300 universities across the US and Canada, battled it out and received \$30,000 for first place, \$15,000 for second place, and \$7,500 for both third and fourth. Oh, did I mention that this was PER player? The way the tournament works is that students enrolled in US and Canadian universities (no online-universities) sign up, with 5-7 other players enrolled in the same college as they are. The many teams will fight in the North American Collegiate Open, until only eight survive. Then, the eight

teams go to the North American Collegiate Qualifier and have a “round robin” competition among sixteen teams: the eight from the Collegiate Open, four from the IvyLoL’s (Another kind of college *LoL* tournament) fall season, and four from CSL’s Qualifier, according to *CinemaBlend*.

In addition to the college tournaments and teams, the pros are also around college age, if not younger. The two most recent tournaments had prize pools of 2.05 million (2013), and 2.13 million (2014), according to *eSportEarnings*. The season 3 World Championship (2013) was held in the US, and the season 4 World Championship (2014) was held in South Korea. Guess who won the last two? Korea.



2014 NACC Champs, Korea!



# “The Man”: The Critically Acclaimed (Ha-ha!) 4-Part Serial



By Your Friendly Corner-Dweller  
PART 2

A brief clue to my identity before we begin the next chapter of Danny Wilkinson's adventure:

A Poem  
by (Oops! Can't Tell You!)

*Wims advisory,  
Full of surprise-ory  
I'm a loon, I'm a sham  
In this Microbe bedlam*

*Green eyes, No lies,  
And my name's not Sam  
Middle height, eyes bright  
Can you guess who I am?*

And now, a swift shift from a pseudo-poem to a perilous puzzler...

The door slammed to the floor and a large black boot stepped upon it. I held my breath in the corner, dreading whatever came next.

The man walked right past me and faced my brother Luke in the hallway. "WHERE IS HE?" the man growled in a strange voice, as Luke cowered in fear. I could tell he wasn't going to talk, but his eyes betrayed him. For the briefest part of a second, they glanced at me.

The man turned around, his face hidden by a few strips of cloth and his eyes by a low-facing fedora.

"Danny," he mused. "Yes, you're the one they sent me for. Come with me." He pulled me up abruptly and forced me out of the house, ignoring Luke's yelling and screaming.

I was shoved into the back of a car, and as the door closed, the world went dark.

---

Danny's Experiences from Car Ride to Seaside

*Rock and lean,  
Pearly sheen,  
A ship, a trip,  
A seasick teen*

*Now to shore,  
But, what for?  
A bag, a lag  
And so much more...*

I could see only flashes of it through the black bag on my head. My energy was nonexistent. I trailed behind the man and a few others. We drove to a dock, got out, and approached a large yacht.

*Continued on page 13*



*Continued from page 12*

Finally, the bag was removed. I was in a small room. Meals and water, that was all. As far as I was concerned, the world would implode before we reached wherever we were going.

And then, one day, when I had resigned myself to the idea of being stuck there forever, the ship stopped.

The bag was back on.

I blacked out again.

---

A man stood in front of me, tall, thin, and gray-haired, clad in a dark gray suit. I was sitting in a chair in the middle of a large purple room on an isolated island.

"I'm sorry it had to be this way," the tall man said, downcast. "I must have given you quite a fright." Bafflingly, tears came to his eyes. "I...it's just...I haven't seen you in so long..."

"Who are you?" I asked, bewildered and afraid.

Quickly, if you were confused...

Yes, the story is told from Danny's perspective, even though I'm supposedly the author. I know Danny personally, and no, you can't talk to him. Stories have more power in first person, and besides, this story wouldn't exist without him. If you didn't understand any of that, you probably aren't an author.

And now, for the pivotal moment of Danny's story...

The man looked me straight in the eyes, and said words I'll never forget:

"Your mother hasn't told you about me, has she? I'm your father. Your real father."

CONTINUED IN PART 3.  
BUT YOU'LL HAVE TO WAIT.  
(Feel free to faint in suspense.)

## Weird Laws Part 2

(Someone did these actions in order for the law to be passed)

By Jonathan Brown

It is illegal for anyone to own pliers. (TX)  
One cannot put pretzels in a bag. (PA)  
It is illegal to look at a moose from an airplane. (AK)  
It is illegal to pronounce the word Arkansas incorrectly. (AR)  
It is illegal to drive a car without a steering wheel. (IL)  
It is illegal for anything but a baby to be in a baby carriage. (WV)  
It is illegal for a barber to advertise their prices. (GA)  
Birds get the right of way on a highway. (UT)  
In order to own a bear, one must have a license. (OH)  
It is illegal; to sell cabbage on Sunday. (NJ)  
It is illegal to walk through a hotel lobby with spurs on. (AZ)  
In order to shave one must have a permit. (MI)  
It is illegal to race a rabbit down a street. (NC)  
It is illegal for chicken to lay their eggs before 8 am. (VA)  
It is illegal to put tomatoes in clam chowder. (MA)



Site used: <http://www.strangefacts.com/laws.html>



# The Interview Debate

By Luke Bernatavitz

In November, North Korean hackers attacked Sony Pictures and sent a shock wave of fear across the United States for Sony's impending release of the movie, *The Interview*. Sony pulled *The Interview* from theaters in fear of an attack, later to release it again. By not releasing the movie, Sony succumbed to the tyranny of terror. Since this attack, Americans have expressed their right to "freedom of speech" very openly.

The attack on Sony was initiated on November 24, 2014. It was a response to an upcoming release of the movie, *The Interview* by Sony Pictures. The move has raised many issues, both foreign and domestic, regarding the content within the film. In the movie, two Americans, named Dave Skylark played by James Franco and Seth Rogan



as Aaron Rapoport, run a television show called *Skylark Tonight*. The show is extremely popular and reaches out to audiences around the globe, including the "supreme leader" of North Korea, Kim Jong-un. After requesting an interview with Kim, the pair fly to North Korea to interview him. Throughout the movie, *The Interview* mocks Kim and his dictatorship.

The cyber attack was an attempt to scare Americans into not viewing the movie. Then on the morning of November 24, every Sony computer screen had a skeletal figure with long bony fingers on it. This skeletal

figure was a warning sent by the hackers not to release the movie. After a thorough investigation by the FBI, the investigators traced the hack back to North Korea. Since the attack occurred, President Obama and many Americans, including politicians and celebrities, like George Clooney, have been outspoken against this form of terror.

Americans should exercise their right of "freedom of speech and expression" responsibly without intimidation. *The Interview* should be an example of how the American way of life should not and will not be oppressed by any type of terror.



# The Interview Review

By Jackson Lyell

*The Interview* is a comedy movie about two journalists who have a plot to murder Kim Jong-Un, the dictator of North Korea. James Franco plays the main character, Dave Skylark, while Seth Rogen plays Aaron Rapoport. Dave Skylark has a show called *Skylark Tonight*, where he interviews famous celebrities like Eminem. Aaron Rapoport is the producer of the show. During the timeline of the movie, North Korea is considered a huge threat to the United States because of the number of nuclear



missiles they are buying. When Dave and Aaron discover that Kim Jong-Un is a huge fan of *Skylark Tonight*, they have an idea to interview him on the show. Because of security concerns, Dave and Aaron must travel to North Korea to interview him. Their plans totally change one morning after waking up from a party when the CIA asks them to take Kim Jong-Un out. The CIA needs him to be killed quietly, so they ask Dave and Aaron to put a poison strip on their hand, so that when they shake Kim's hand, the poison will slowly kill him. After spending time with Kim, they think all of the rumors they heard about Kim are not true. At the time, Dave thinks Kim is a great and funny guy. Dave disposes the poison strip, realizing he does not want to kill Kim. Later in the movie, they realize they have been "honey potted," or tricked by Kim Jong-Un. Dave even

sees a fake grocery store! After realizing Kim Jong-Un is a terrible person, they regret their decision of ruining the poison strip. Dave and Aaron decide to humiliate him completely on the interview. During the interview, Dave allows the people of North Korea to see Kim Jong-Un as just another person, not a god. North Korea's soldiers try to stop the show from airing on national television, but end up being killed by Aaron Rapoport. After the interview, Kim Jong-Un is so angry and humiliated that he activates the nukes. From this point on, it is up to Dave Skylark and Aaron Rapoport to save the world.

Personally, I thought the movie was hilarious, but it was really pointless. They could have made the conflict a bit more serious. Overall, I loved *The Interview*. On a one to ten scale, I would personally give the comedy a nine.



# The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies: Movie Review

By John Thornton

*Warning: A spoiler alert is in full effect.*

As a grand finale to a grand saga, *The Battle of the Five Armies* is everything it promises to be—an epic movie whose runtime is mostly taken up by the gigantic titular battle. Fans of the original novel might not be too pleased about the changing of an entirely off “screen” battle into a two-hour extravaganza, but the movie is nonetheless entertaining with emotional scenes that really hit home.

One thing that I really give this movie credit for is letting the actual plot hold up in the middle of the action with Thorin’s insanity, Tauriel’s banishment, and Bard’s killing of Smaug highlighted. One thing I do not give it credit for is

the fact that it failed to tie up all loose ends. Beorn, an instrumental character in the book, is given just a mere cameo, Saruman’s future betrayal is never hinted at, and the future of Tauriel is not made clear. Bilbo, the dwarves, Legolas, and pretty much everyone else

are given a good ending to their story, but those three characters (and their respective plotlines) particularly bothered me.

Another problem with this movie (which I am sure you have heard this before) is the extensive use of CGI in nearly every scene. Animals, orcs, and even a dwarf are completely computer generated, taking away from the

belief that everything you are seeing could really be real. I am not saying that using CGI is bad; it’s just very overdone here.

The last thing that disappointed me is the fact that Smaug is only present for the prologue before being killed. The prologue. Fifteen minutes. Despite that, this is true to the book, Benedict Cumberbatch’s incredible voice acting and the creature’s wonderful animation deserve more. (And yes, I just disagreed with something J.R.R. Tolkien did.) Yes, Smaug has his awesome moment destroying Laketown, but that is just a moment. As for actually talking, Smaug maybe has five lines.

Now, I do not want anyone to get the idea that I hated this movie.



I didn’t; I legitimately enjoyed it. It has its flaws, but as I said before the spectacle was entertaining to watch, the plot held up well, and the deaths of Kili, Fili, and Thorin were heartbreaking (particularly Kili’s). Although I believe that *The Hobbit* series is flawed as a whole and that *The Desolation of Smaug* was by far the best segment, I did like this movie and think it is worth seeing again.

RATING - 4 out of 5 stars

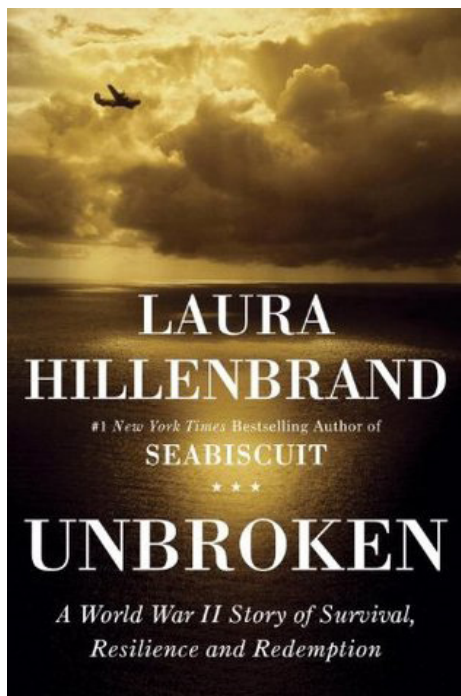


# Unbroken Movie Disappoints Unwavering Fans

By Julian Habermann

**Warning: Many spoilers here below.**

When I found out that there was going to be a movie based on the book, *Unbroken*, I was ecstatic. *Unbroken* is one of my favorite books of all time, so I had very high expectations for the movie. Despite lacking in several key areas, the movie did a surprisingly better job following the book than I had



expected.

The true story follows Louis Zamperini, a young man born into a family of Italian immigrants who

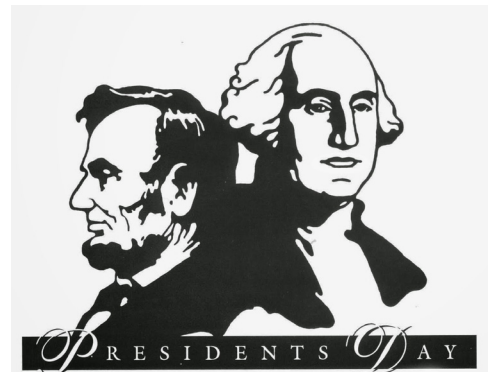


live in Torrance, California. The movie depicts four parts of Louie's life: his childhood, his track career, his military service and crash, and his life as a Japanese POW. He lived a hard life as a child who got bullied for being foreign, but his brother Pete helped train Louie to become an outstanding runner. After lots of training, Louie then competed in the 1936 Olympics in Nazi Germany where he finished eighth in the 5000-meter dash. Sadly after this event, Louie's life takes a turn for the worse. He was drafted into the military and crashed into the ocean during a bombing raid. Louie and only two other members survived the crash and lived 47 days in a raft until they reached the Marshall Islands. They had to eat raw seagulls and fight off sharks, and Louie with his fellow survivor Russell Allen Phillips watched a friend die on the raft. After such a horrible experience, Louie gets captured by Japan and sent to a prisoner of war camp. In this camp, Louie was tormented and beaten up by a guard and survived the harsh conditions.

Ultimately at the end of the war, the movie shows Louie reuniting with his family.

However there were a few points left out of the movie such as Louie shaking Hitler's hand at the Olympics and the POW's plot to kill their horrible guard. Another problem I had with the movie was the inaccuracies of Louie Zamperini's childhood with real life. Besides the small problems with the parts of the movie shown, my largest issue was with what the movie did not portray. One of the most interesting parts of the novel is Louie's life after being a POW. Louie had a hard time letting go of what happened at the camps and started drinking heavily. Ultimately, he found himself through Christianity and was involved in the Billy Graham movement. He eventually forgave his former captors by going as far as to meet them personally.

Despite its shortcomings, the movie was far better than I expected. It was a nice tribute to Mr. Zamperini's life after he died on July 2, 2014. Mr. Zamperini became an inspirational speaker later in his life and even visited MBA three years ago where I met him. He was a great man, and I am glad that this movie has spread his story further. Overall, I would rate the *Unbroken* movie by itself 85/100, but compared to the novel, I would give it 72/100.





# Valentines Day Advice

Dear Dr. Love,

I was hanging out with my girl last weekend at the movie theater, and I wanted to take it to the next level. I slid my hand down and entangled it with her hand. I didn't notice, but, she started laughing softly. Later that week, I found out that she was MAKING FUN of my hand-holding abilities. Please Doctor Love, I need help. Please explain to me how to hold hands with a girl in DETAIL. Should I use an interlocking grip or use an overlapping grip? Also, how do I avoid having sweaty hands? Apparently my girl was making fun of me because of that too. I really need your help Doctor.

From,  
Worried Seventh Grader

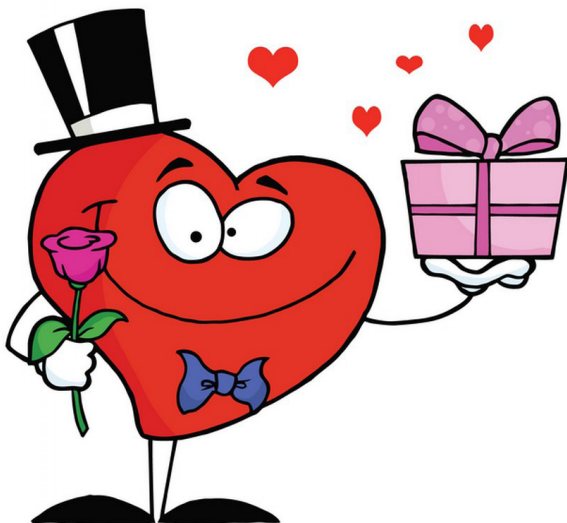
Dear Worried Seventh Grader,

This time, Dr. Love will help you with your situation. To stop sweating hands, there are only two things to do: either don't get nervous or just put napkins in your pockets. Now, for holding hands with a girl, you should go with the interlocking grip. Be subtle about it--play it cool. During the movies, comfortably grab her hand and hold her when she gets scared during the movie. Also be a gentleman with her. Last but not least, don't embarrass yourself, just keep calm and get through it.

Now, after you deal with this situation there is another terrifying problem, Valentine's Day!! For this problem, I will also offer help with your girl. First of all, buy her something or at least give her a special card. Make the moment heart-warming, so the girl feels special. You should also buy her something and tell her that you like her. However, if you don't have a girl on Valentine's Day, but you have one in mind,

Doctor Love can help with that problem, too.

Sincerely,  
Doctor Love



If you have more love problems to be solved, send them to Mrs. Roberts, and Doctor Love will answer your questions for you.





# Looking Back At the 2014 MLB Awards

By John Raulston Graham

The 2014 MLB awards were truly historic. Mike Trout, the winner of the American League Most Valuable Player award, is the fifth youngest player to win the award. The big story of the awards? Clayton Kershaw joining the elite group of eleven Major League pitchers that have received a MVP and a Cy Young in the same night! How about both MVPs from Los Angeles?

And the winners are... Mike Trout of the Los Angeles Angels for AL (American League) Most Valuable Player! While Trout posted career highs in home run

(36) and runs batted in (111) he struck out more (184) and walked less (83). However, he led the American League in runs batted in (111) and runs (115). Trout held a batting average of only .287 in comparison to the

AL average of .256. Additionally, Clayton Kershaw from Dallas, TX won the NL (National League) Most Valuable Player. He also won the NL Cy Young award. This award is given to the best pitcher in the specific league in which they compete. Although ten people before Kershaw have received both MVP and Cy Young awards, he is the first NL player to achieve this feat since Bob Gibson in 1968. Because a pitcher is a player that is only on the field every couple of days, a pitcher has to post unreal numbers to win the MVP. Lefty Kershaw successfully achieved these numbers with a 1.77 earned run average (ERA) and a 21-3 record. The twenty-six year-old had 21 wins in 27 starts which is the most in the MLB this year. He also has a WHIP (walks plus hits per inning) of 0.86.

Corey Kluber, a twenty-eight-year-old player of the Cleveland Indians, is the American League Cy Young award winner.

Kluber leads the AL in wins, second in strikeouts, and third in ERA (2.44). However, he sits a distant sixth in WHIP (1.09). Jacob DeGrom wins the NL Rookie of the Year. DeGrom of the New York Mets posted an ERA of 2.69 and a record of 9-6. He also had 144 strikeouts.



*Clayton Kershaw of the Dodgers*

Jose Abreu of the Chicago White Sox wins the AL Rookie of the Year. Abreu did not just post the best batting average (.317) among rookies, but he was the fifth best in the American League. The twenty-seven-year-old also racked up 36 homeruns and 107 RBI.

I've given you the facts, so now I will give you my opinion. I thought that Clayton Kershaw was a lock for NL Cy Young Award. However, I was not so sure about MVP. I strongly disagree with the selection of Corey Kluber as the AL Cy Young recipient. I believe that Felix Hernandez with his MLB second best 2.14 ERA and 15-6 record should have won. I was not sure about Mike Trout, either. He is definitely a wonderful hitter. However, his average took a hard hit and his strikeouts were numerous this season. Lastly, Jose Abreu certainly deserved his Rookie of the Year, as I proved earlier.



*Mike Trout of the LA Angels*





## Who's Hot?

By Ross Johnson

College basketball has taken many unexpected turns this season because of over and under estimation of teams and players. Conferences such as the ACC, SEC, and BIG 12 have shown excellence on the court this season. Kentucky currently stands as number 1 and the only undefeated team since Virginia lost to Duke a week ago, ruining their perfect season.

The ACC has uncovered great talent this year with providing 5 teams in the top 25 rankings. Virginia gives a huge boost to the



ACC while remaining 3rd in the nation with Duke at 4th. Duke was undefeated until they lost two back-to-back games to unranked NC State and Miami, which was a huge surprise for many college basketball fans. Also, Coach Mike Krzyzewski of Duke, the greatest coach in all of college basketball, has claimed his 1000th win as a head coach.

The SEC has shown great competition and skill in their season so far. Even though they have only one ranked team in the entire conference, The University of Kentucky has been ranked #1 for their entire season and remains undefeated. Kentucky, mainly known for their outstanding freshman, Devin Booker, has excelled greatly this season and is in the running for freshman of the year. Also, despite Vanderbilt's 7 game losing streak that ended recently in their win over Florida, Riley LaChance has shown outstanding talent in his freshman season and is the highest point scorer in the SEC at this moment. Arkansas has had a great season but cannot grasp a permanent spot in the top 25 rankings since they made it up to #23 before losing a couple key games and falling back.

The BIG 12 is the most elite conference right now providing the NCAA with 6 top 25 ranked teams, which is outstanding. Kansas leads the BIG 12 as 1st in their conference and 11th in the nation. There is no doubt that many of the teams in this conference will drop spots in the rankings as they continue their season through the bloodbath of conference play to see who comes

out on top and claims a high seed in the NCAA tournament.

College basketball has evolved very much this year with all of the talented freshman and underdog teams who have never



been expected to come as far as they have. The NCAA tournament is going to experience some true March Madness.



*March Madness is coming!*

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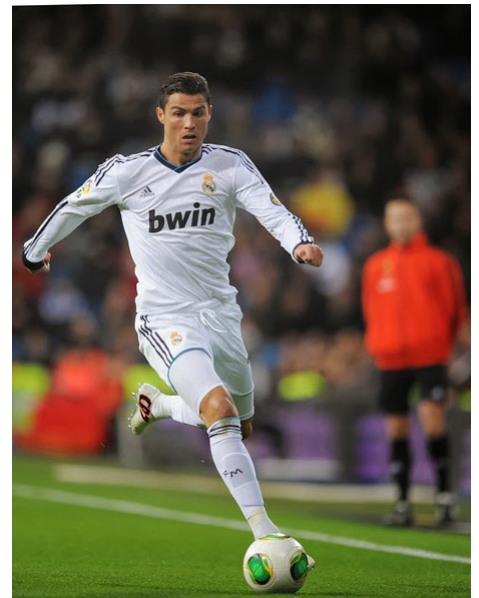
## FIFA Awards

By Camden Slinger

This year the FIFA World Player Gala was held in Zurich, Switzerland. This award went to Cristiano Ronaldo because of his outstanding performance in the UEFA Champions League and in the World Cup. He has received the Ballon d'Or award the last 2 years and 3 times in his career. Ronaldo

became the first Portuguese player to receive this award three times. The Puskas award went to James Rodriguez because of his outstanding goal against Honduras which opened the scoring for Columbia in the Round of 16. He received the ball from a header. James controlled the ball with his chest and volleyed the ball off the underside of the crossbar into the goal. The Coach of the Year went to Joachim Low. He brought Germany to their first World Cup victory in 24 years. This achievement was the main reason he won the Coach of the Year award. The FIFA Team of the Year was voted for by over 20,000 professional players and consists of 11 soccer stars. These stars include goalkeeper Manuel Neuer, defenders David Luiz, Thiago Silva, Philipp Lahm, and Sergio Ramos, midfielders Andres Iniesta,

Toni Kroos, and Angel Di Maria, and forwards Arjen Robben, Lionel Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo.



*Cristiano Ronaldo dribbling the ball up the field in a Real Madrid C.F. soccer game.*

## College Football Bowl Season

By William Stewart

The 2014 season concluded with a slate of exciting and surprising bowl games including more than a few embarrassing losses for the SEC, a third string quarterback making a championship run, and the dethroning of the number one team in the nation. The highlight of the bowl season was the SEC's major losses to other opponents. The SEC went 7-5 overall; however, the SEC West, known to be the better football division, went 2-5 in bowl games. The only SEC West wins were by Arkansas and Texas A&M, who played lower grade opponents. The West failed to win in games that mattered most;



*Ohio State Head Coach, Urban Meyer*

number one Alabama lost to eventual champion Ohio State by 7 in the semi-final game; Mississippi State was defeated 34-49 by Georgia Tech; and, most embarrassing, the 42-3 dismantling of Ole Miss by TCU in the Peach Bowl. This year was the first time a SEC team has failed to reach the championship game since 2005. Do these losses signify the SEC is losing power as the best conference in college football?

The college football playoff started off with the No.2 seed Oregon Ducks facing off with the No.3 seed

Florida State Seminoles in the Rose Bowl. The fumble by FSU's Jameis Winston highlighted the night for the 'Noles as Oregon dominated from start to finish winning 59-20. The next semi-final game featured the No.1 Alabama Crimson Tide facing off with the No.4 Ohio State Buckeyes in the Sugar Bowl. Despite a big early lead for the Tide, Cardale Jones in his second start as the Ohio State quarterback led the Buckeyes to 21 unanswered points and a 42-35 win. The stage was set for the national championship game, Oregon vs Ohio State; Marcus Mariota, the Oregon quarterback and Heisman trophy winner, vs Cardale Jones, the third string quarterback for Ohio State at the start of the season. Ohio State proved the Alabama game was no fluke and beat the fastest team in college football 42-20 making Ohio State the first undisputed national champion in college football history.

# Super Bowl Ads: The Real Reason We Watch the Game

By Aden Barton

The real entertainment behind the Super Bowl is not the game but the ads. One 30 second ad in the 2014 Super Bowl cost around 4.5 million dollars (<http://www.syracuse.com/>). With \$150,000 dollars spent per second for advertisements, the stakes are high. In my opinion, this year's Super Bowl commercials didn't disappoint. Here are the top 3 Super Bowl commercials of 2015:



**Number 3- Skittles' "Settle It the Normal Way"**- Skittles advertisements are known for their funny and subversive ways. The ad depicts a town where everyone settles fights with arm wrestling competitions. Two men have one lemon skittle left and are forced to arm wrestle over it. The whole town comes to watch and every single person and creature has huge biceps. This humorous and enticing advertisement definitely lived up to the reputation of Skittles commercials.



**Number 2- Budweiser's "Human Pac-Man"**- Budweiser's new "up for whatever" campaign has been a huge success, especially in the commercial setting. This ad depicts a man who receives a Budweiser and then is led to a human Pac-Man game. Somehow, the man is transformed into a pac-man who has to run away from ghosts. Not only is this advertisement funny and adventurous, but it also displays its product very well.

**Number 1- Nationwide's "Invisible Mindy"**- Nationwide ran a few commercials this year during the Super Bowl, and I think this one was by far the best. During the commercial, Mindy Kaling is ignored by everybody and realizes she is invisible. She then goes around and eats people's food and goes through a car wash. Finally, when she walks up to kiss Matt Damon, he backs away, and Mindy realizes she was actually visible the whole time. The Nationwide announcer then steps in and says that Nationwide will see and take care of you when you feel invisible. This advertisement has several things going for it. First off, there are two famous celebrities in it which



makes people want to watch it more. Secondly, the funny plot and the twist at the end make this ad memorable.

Finally, the advertisement actually relates to the product being sold! A large number of the Super Bowl ads, especially car commercials, have nothing to do with the product being sold. However, this depiction of feeling invisible relates to an insurance that will help you and make you feel seen. All in all, this year's Super Bowl advertisements lived up to the high stakes.







# The Super Bowl XLIX

By Matthew Kaplan

The Super Bowl. Enough said. Well, various things are said about the Super Bowl. Most people review it. Some people watch it. Others watch the stats, and then some go through it with a play-by-play analysis. Very few people actually form their own opinions about the two teams after the game is played. Even fewer examine the

game itself: the game of football. What is the game of football? Football is entertainment. Entertainment is the concept of showing viewers what they want to see. This year's Super Bowl was definitely entertaining. In addition, viewers want to see excitement; viewers want to see big plays, and viewers want to see the unexpected, but also the expected. What does the audience expect in the Super Bowl? The audience expects Tom Brady to have a great night, just as they expect the Seahawks defense to play well. However, the two contradict each other. This contradiction led the viewers to expect a great Super Bowl last year, but Seattle routed Denver by a huge margin in the preceding Super Bowl.

The point is that the unexpected ignites the game. The unexpected is when two things that are expected

clash together. This year's Super Bowl was close, and the ending will be remembered for many years to come, including an all-out brawl on the field. In the unexpected moments and in the historical moments, the true light of the competitive spirit of football is found.

In my opinion, this year's Super Bowl was one of the best ever. As I said, viewers want to see big plays and big moments. The most tense moments of the game bring out the most fame, the most money, and the most success. Next time you watch the Super Bowl, think about the game mentally. Think about the game differently.



## C Team Soccer

By Jackson Singer

During the MBA soccer season, the C team, coached by Daniel Paolicchi and Bill Hardin, improved throughout an exciting year.

In our first game vs. FRA, we had a rough start but made it through the first half and lead 1-0. MBA then went on to win the game 3-1 with the leading scorer being 7th grader Sjeff "the Iron Chef" Quaadvlieg. In the second game, which was also



against FRA, MBA demonstrated major improvement since the team's first match up. With the leading scorer being 8th grader William Stewart, the Big Red won 5-0. After the two wins, the C team faced a very impressive CPA team. CPA was able to defeat the Big Red 3-0, but

the Red became a better team from the loss. After this difficult loss, the C team faced the MBA B team in an outstanding game. The C team came out strong, and they surprised everyone. The game ended regulation with the score 0-0. Both teams then went into a penalty shootout, and the C team lost to a score

of 3-1. Nevertheless, the C team then went on to win the last game vs. Harding 4-1. Through great coaching and a fantastic season, the C team gained quality experience on the field and had fun doing it.

*Photo Courtesy of Mrs. Tanzy Wallace*

# The A Team Soccer Season

By Jack Rankin

The MBA A team experienced another successful year on the pitch this season finishing with an impressive record of 10-0-1. The undefeated Big Red got the ball rolling with a 6-0 demolition of the boys down on Franklin Road, but they were caught off guard in their next match. In a misty game, the Brentwood Academy Eagles were able to keep the Big Red scoreless the whole first half. The Big Red would have to overcome a situation they had not been in this season. With some #SCtop10 worthy goals from Luke Bernatavitz aided by Henry Hylbert's magisterial deliveries, the Big Red salvaged a tie keeping the undefeated season hopes alive. The Big Red rolled the next 4 games in total outscoring their opponents 23-2, which included a 6-2 defeat over the team who must not be named (they're orange...).



*The Eleven Time Champion Microbe A Soccer Team!*

MBA again was faced with a tough opponent, CPA. This was the year that many coaches predicted MBA's seat on the throne would be removed, and CPA was supposed to do it. In a cold, hard-fought, groin-kicked match, the Big Red fought out a win with some world-class goal keeping from Hugh Sullivan. The Big Red, now exhausted from a grueling match, was to play USN. The river-campus proved to be a difficult place for the Red to win as they were shutout and behind at half time, but once again the Red was able to run away with the game and win 4-2. The Red was then able to cruise into the championship game after an improved Big Red ousted USN 6-1.

The match had come. The game, which was rumored to end the Red's

streak of 10 consecutive championships, was to be played in the unbearable cold. CPA struck first, shocking the Red. The goal came off of a set piece, which somehow found its way into the back of the net. The Big Red fought back hard and needed a wonderful show of skill from Luke Bernatavitz in a coast-to-coast score. The Big Red held on in the end winning 2-1, and the streak was preserved—11 straight championships! The team finished the season with a goal difference of +40 in only 11 games, which is incredible. The A team now passes the torch to the rising seventh graders to continue the Big Red's incredible streak.

# B Team Soccer

By Arthur Laffer

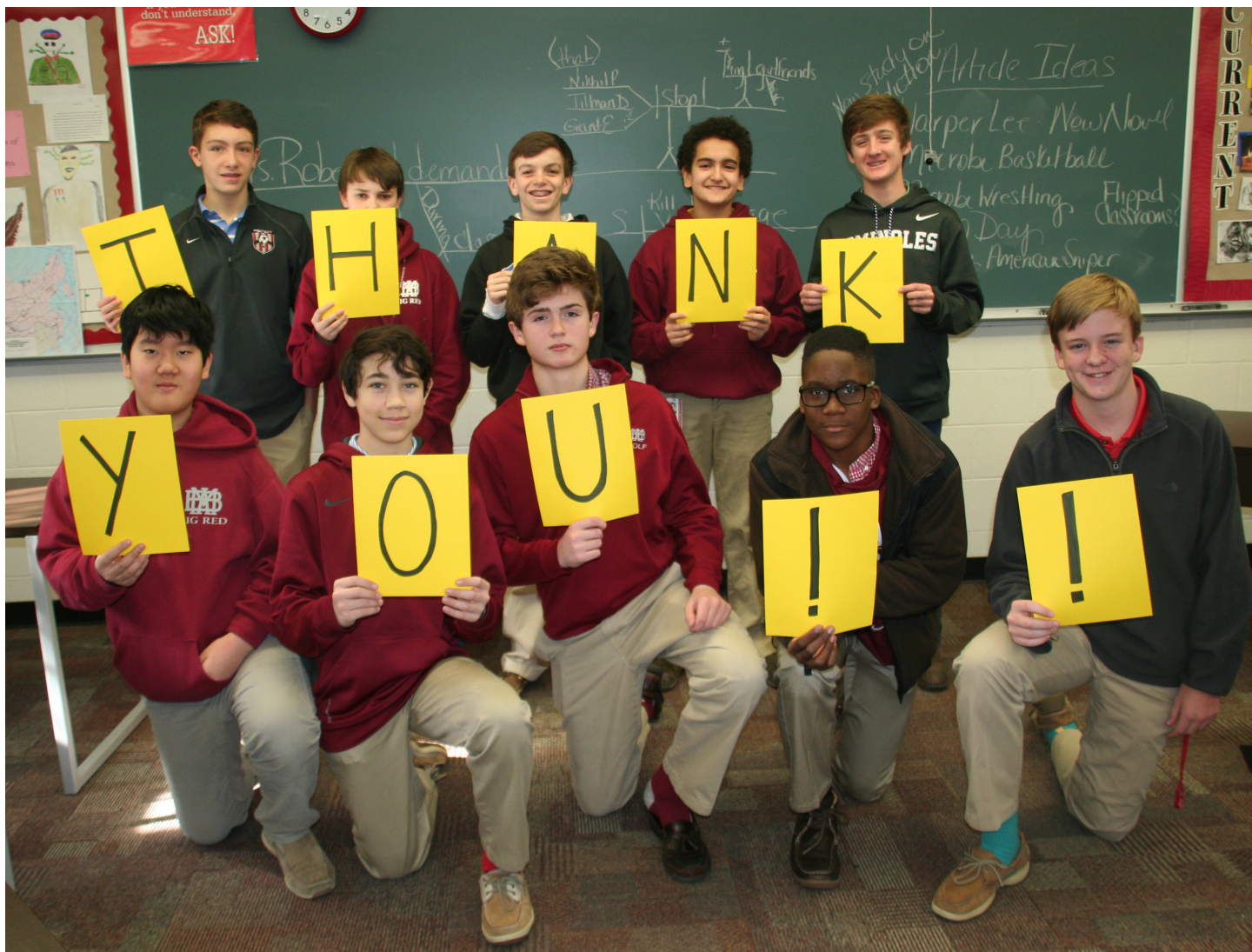
MBA's B soccer team had a great season this year with Coach "Fro" Lanier and Coach Dougherty. We tied one game against CPA and won our games against Ensworth, BA, FRA, Poplar Grove, and USN. Our most memorable moment was beating Ensworth with a crushing



score of 6-0. Our scorers during the Ensworth game were Tye and Jake Herbstreit, Zach Garfinkel, Carson Reisinger, and Blake Kirchenbauer. Throughout the season, Carson Reisinger, Blake Kirchenbauer,

Reed Campbell, Zach Garfinkel, William Petroni, and Arthur Laffer represented MBA as the B team strikers. Tye and Jake Herbstreit, Joe Owens, Carlos Soria, Jack Larish and Camden Slinger held down the fort as the B team midfielders. Additionally, the B team defenders included Logan Vicks, Liam Huber, Hunter Birch, and Ian Hall. Last, but definitely not least, were our two goalies: Ned Freeland and John Hyde. Thanks to an overall good team effort, MBA's B team had a great soccer season.





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